

6/4/69

Dear Gary,

Your 6/2/ arrived today. You might have sent me the Newton Armstrong docs. I have several copies. If you do not get a copy of the aff. from Joh, let me know and I'll copy. Better for your purposes, if you ever need it, to have and cite court record, which that will be.

When you write as you do of Lifton I'm sorely tempted to remind you... I never mentioned the Powell thing to anyone, simply because there was no occasion to. It is by no means new. I think Sylvia told me about it in 1966. It just never fit anything I was doing. For whatever reason, Lifton was doing something to or with you, for I have never had any discussion with him since 12/66 except for the phone conversation about Thornley in 12/88, first of month. I believe after I was in Calif in 66 he phoned me once, long ago. I have no recollection of every discussing Powell with anyone. It is, however, possible that Hal made copies of that file when he was here. It certainly was okay if he did... Are you beginning to understand my position that people like him have no possibility of doing more good than they do harm? With him and Fred and whoever else they may have turned on working against me as they are in Calif and probably by mail wherever else they can, if I had the disposition to try and do anything, could I? From the time of his first call, for Ramparts, I've had doubts about Dave. It was weird. He had Brown and Root secretly tunneling Dealey Plaza, was obviously sincere about the papier-mache trees, and had other fantasies solidified in his mind. Then when he wrote his Ramparts piece and used much of what I had originally published, attributed to those who either picked it up or independently but later came across it what he used, I knew he was plain dishonest, so I have always shunned him. The only reason I saw him in 1966 is because my host, Bill O'Connell, desired it (and Ray did, too). I would not have phoned him in 1968 is Paul had not urged me to (Paul was right). He is sick because he has done nothing of significance, has given up his college for it, and is desperate and jealous. I think he began disturbed at best. Remember, you and Hal were here together, and I know you gave me some reports. Is it possible Hal got them then? But why crap around with this nonsense, why clutter the day with these futilities? You may wish he gets the book done; I do not. I tremble to think of the potential of that of which he is capable. I know for the Reseda insanity that he cannot distinguish between what is ~~what~~ fact and what he wishes were. He has so much awful stuff in whatever he does that if he does come up with anything good it will be lost. If I never hear from him again it will be too soon. I called him and challenged him more than a half year ago. He has been silent, to me, since, and has not sent what he promised, those nasty lies he had been distributing. Nor has he retracted them.

Spend your summer as you will, just so you enjoy it and relax. My own opinion of where you can do most good is unchanged. The pool is chemically clean now, the water is warm enough, and I'll be getting the leaves out any day.

I think you should write Olson and tell him that we were able to duplicate the neck dents by other means. Dick will worry if you do not correct it, so perhaps you might send him a copy. Dick will eventually write more on this but until he gets some pictures that are still in the hands of a photog here, there is not much more he can do now. I think this will ultimately have value. Dick is dissipated but he shouldn't be.

If and when it becomes important, I may be able to get someone else to contact Herald. That he has not followed through with Dick on his own, I think for at least the moment is sufficient to pass him over for the moment. There are too many things to do to spend time persuading, and if it is necessary to persuade, it is also important to wonder why.

- May I say that now the puff of smoke should be consigned to the past? Let those who have been irresponsible with it concern themselves. Three years ago it had significance. I do not think it does today, unless we learn more about it. We are past that, far ahead.

Nicol reveals himself in simple ways, for example in postulating that any conspiracy must be a "goat conspiracy", which no one but the apologists and Garrison have ever suggested, unless you include the irresponsible, ours and all the other side. When he says it is possible an assassin carried his rifle with an empty chambered he is foolish and evasive. He is careful to avoid what is probable, and that is not this possibility he supposes. Does he not warrant any kind of suspicion when he is content with the knowledge that the cartridges had to have been in another weapon or this one had a different bolt? That is enough to involve someone besides Oswald as a minimum. And if he is willing to mistrust the FBI representation of what he examined/... And he certainly knows 399 cannot have had the history attributed to it. All the official evidence says that... These are people with strange scholarship, stanger mental processes and the most exotic beliefs. A professor in the Administration of Criminal Justice Administration talking about "minuscule" errors when any error at all, in court, on such basic evidence, must be exculpatory? Some "Justice"!

Apologies for again inflicting the typos on you.
Best,